

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By way of this response, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6-7, 9 and 12-13 and canceled Claims 2-5, 8 and 14. Accordingly, Claims 1, 6-7 and 9-13 remain in the application.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 12, indicating that it is unclear what the claimed formula represents. The Examiner maintains that the catalyst is described as comprising any "cationic rhodium complex" of the given formula. However, the Examiner indicates that the claimed formula does not include rhodium or an indication of charge. Hence, the Examiner concludes that it is unclear what is the claimed complex. Applicants have amended claim 1 to overcome the Examiner's rejection by indicating that the formula represents a ligand which is complexed to the cationic rhodium(I) complex. This amendment to the claim is consistent with the description of the cationic rhodium(I) complex and diphosphonate ligand found in the specification at page two, lines 31-32 and at page four, lines, 14-18. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the examiner's rejection.

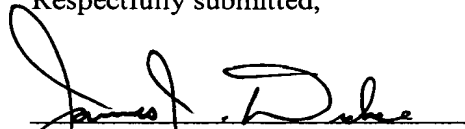
The Examiner has rejected claim 6, indicating that it is unclear whether the Markush group language of the form "selected from the group consisting of" was intended. Applicants have amended Claim 6 to provide clarification. The Examiner has indicated that the antecedent basis of Claim 7 to "metal oxide" is unclear. Applicants have amended Claim 7 to provide clarification. Finally, the Examiner has indicated that the antecedent basis of Claim 13 to "substrate conversion" and the reference to "also" are unclear. Applicants have amended Claim 13 to provide clarification.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over the Burk et al. reference in view of Tanielyan et al. The Examiner has further indicated that Claims 8,9 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph set forth above and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Accordingly,

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Applicants have made the suggested amendments and respectfully request
reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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